

1997 YEAR END - CATALOGUE EDITOR'S REPORT.

Roy Gault

1997 saw the publication by the Society of two more letters (R & N), for the New Illustrated Catalogue of GB Perfins, as well as the completion of the draft for the new 8th edition of Tomkins. For those interested in figures, the totals are shown below.

Letter	No. Dies 'New' Cat.	No. to be Published.	No. Dies "Edw/Gault"	No. with Marts.	% Identified	Average life(Yrs)	No. Dies Van Lint	No. Dies Tilles
A			1,132	395	34.9%		604	700
B			1,883	696	37.0%		806	1,193
C			1,868	690	36.9%		822	1,199
D			872	301	34.5%		440	550
E			843	284	33.7%		371	535
F			801	254	31.7%		337	528
G			982	336	34.2%		448	681
H			1,506	459	30.5%		662	940
I-'95	348	5	352	165	46.7%	8	145	236
J-'96	1,644	28	1,506	600	35.9%	10.8	654	1,047
K-'95	325	8	304	171	51.4%	11	138	210
L			1,070	425	39.7%		515	719
M			1,020	390	38.2%		482	649
N-'97	568	1	610	296	52.0%	9.7	247	350
O-'94	286	10	280	122	41.2%	8.6	131	164
P			868	318	36.6%		385	571
Q-'94	45	2	39	25	53.2%	8.1	21	27
R-'97	1,057	4	987	447	42.1%	11.6	427	649
S - '94/5	1,686	20	1,564	708	41.5%	9.7	741	1,168
T			798	281	35.2%		349	531
U-'94	209	9	194	121	55.5%	6.8	89	141
V-'94	172	3	159	66	37.7%	8.5	70	117
W			1,544	493	31.9%		655	1,109
X-'94	22	1	20	8	34.8%	2.6	8	10
Y-'94	100	4	87	50	48.1%	8.1	36	62
Z-'94	16	2	16	7	38.9%	4.5	7	9
Des-'94	78	2	84	36	45.0%	10.3	43	59
Nos - '94	62	3	63	26	40.0%	6.6	25	41
TOTAL	6,618	102	21,452	8,170	37.5%	10	9,658	14,195

At the current rate of discovery of new dies (some 5.6%), the "Old Catalogue" total of 21,452 will rise to 22,653. This increases by another 1.5% to account for new dies reported after publication, bringing the current predicted total of GB Perfins to 22,993.

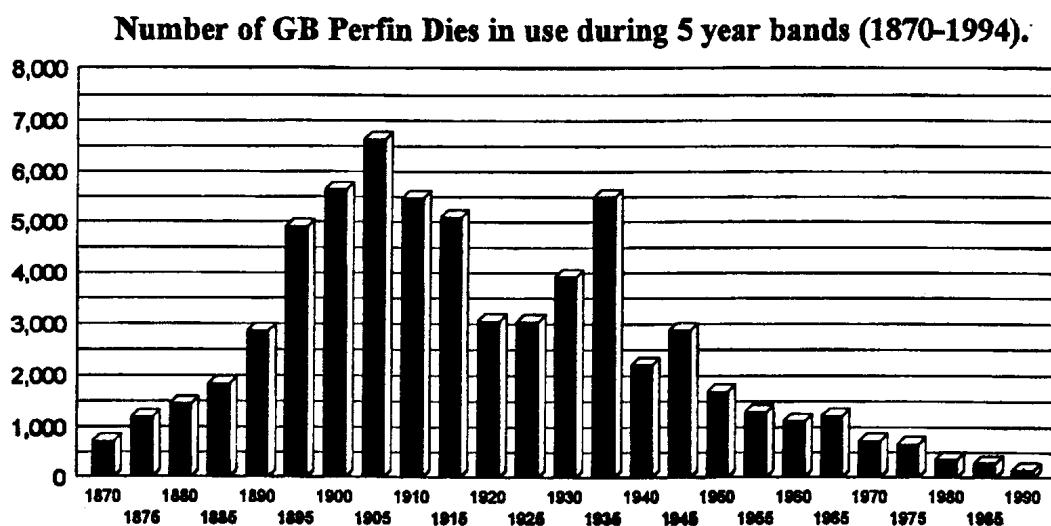
The new 8th edition of Tomkins lists around 8,170 dies with known (or suspected) users. This total includes the 360 identities sent in by 42 different collectors over the last 12 months, all of which were reported in the Society Bulletins (B286-B291). If we lived in a uniform world the remaining 14,823 unidentified GB Perfin dies would all be identified in just over 41 years! However, I have a suspicion that we are unlikely to identify much more than 50%, say around 11,000-12,000 identified dies.

This new edition of Tomkins also includes a major change in that the code letters used to indicate die usage have been replaced by an actual date range. The dates are based on a combination of actual dates reported from postmarks and inferred dates based on the stamp issues used, together with further refinements possibly involving the stamp colour and/or watermark. Two typical entries are shown below.

Cat No.	Letters	Pin count	Hgt '&' Identity	Die in Use	Config
A1130.01	AC/F	10,10/8	5½ A C Finken & Co, Force Foods, London.	1932-1952	[POKO]
A1250.01M	A&C/N	10,14,8/13	4½ III Aire & Calder Navigation Office, Leeds.	1890-1941	[S6xl]

This new edition occupies around 390 A4 pages and is currently being proof read by Stephen Steere. It also includes an enlarged introduction with illustrations of typical perfin types. I hope to have forwarded the final draft to John Dormer in good time to announce costs in the next Bulletin (B293 April '98).

Number of GB Perfin Dies in use during 5 year bands (1870-1994).



The practice of quoting a "die in use" date range started in 1994 when the first sections of the "New Illustrated Catalogue" were published. An analysis of all published date ranges (increased on a pro rata basis to 22,993) gives the distribution shown above. Two peaks are clearly visible, one during the Edwardian era, and another renaissance immediately prior to World War II. Can anyone account for this distribution?